



(Free Press Photos)

## THEY LIVE ON A BRIDGE AND LIKE IT 41

In the above State owned house live Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chamberlain, tenders of the Grand Isle-North Hero bridge. It is their duty to open and close the bridge for water and land traffic which they are shown doing below with the large crank used for that purpose.

(Special to the Free Press)

GRAND ISLE, July 12.—

Living on a bridge is like living on a paradise island to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chamberlin, tenders of the Grand Isle-North Hero bridge. "We just love it," she declares with enthusiasm; "there's something doing all the time!"

For the third summer, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin are living in the four-room bridge house belonging to the State, opening and closing the bridge to permit water and land traffic and keeping record of passing boats. While Mrs. Chamberlin is not employed by the State highway department, she assists her husband in all his duties; helping him swing the bridge open and shut by hand-power and keeping accurate record of water traffic. This is Mr. Chamberlin's 21st year as a State employe. During the winter months he works on the road patrol helping to keep Grand Isle county roads in good condition.

### Likes Traffic

"The traffic over the bridge doesn't bother me a bit," Mrs. Chamberlin said. "I like to watch the people go by and many of them stop to ask directions. I also get acquainted with the many men and women who fish



them stop to ask directions. I also get acquainted with the many men and women who fish

off the bridge. On good Sundays there are as many as 200 people fishing for bass, pike, pickerel and perch. I don't care anything about fishing, myself, but once in a while I throw a line in just so we can have fish for breakfast. We keep a large fish net handy and when somebody hooks onto a big fish that they can't land, either my husband or I rush out with the net and save the day, or rather we save the fish. We also keep a first aid kit handy because somebody is always getting a hook in his finger or getting cut or scratched up some other way. It's very exciting and we meet such interesting people!"

#### Day And Night

Mr. Chamberlin is on call day and night to open the bridge for boats not able to clear. The bridge swings open horizontally when a long iron crank is inserted into a shaft, which comes up through the bridge floor, and is turned by walking round and round in a circle. Sometimes Mr. Chamberlin explained, "the wind is so strong it is impossible for one man to turn the bridge against it. On such occasions, however, it closes very easily because the wind is with you. My wife comes out and helps me turn the crank practically all the time because she thinks it's more than a one man job. However if she hears a boat horn and I've gone to the shore for a few minutes she'll run out and start turning the crank herself. Usually, though, there are some fishermen around who are always glad to help."

#### Trip To Shore

"Going to the shore is what the

farthest I get from the bridge is during the summer because I'm on call all the time. If I should want to get off for any length of time, I have to get a substitute, but it's very seldom that I do that. It's pretty hard for me to get used to being tied down like that because when I'm on the road patrol I'm on the move practically all the time."

The bridge has to be raised all the time that navigation is possible in Lake Champlain. This year the tender took over his job